



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title Insurance Companies Concede to Rate Reductions

Indiana Department of Insurance reaches an agreement with First American and Ohio Bar for lower rates for consumers.

Indianapolis – On July 25, 2014, a Settlement Agreement was reached between the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) and two title insurance companies, First American Title Insurance Company and Ohio Bar Title Insurance Company. The agreement will result in lower premium rates for consumers.

The agreement resolves a dispute between the IDOI and the two title companies over proposed premium charges for residential loan policies issued simultaneously with owners' policies, known as "Simultaneous Rate". The IDOI asserted that this \$100 simultaneous issue rate violated Indiana Code 27-1-22-3(a)(4) in that it was "excessive." Per the agreement, the rate will decrease from \$100 to \$50 for the premium portion of the Simultaneous Rate and endorsement fees shall not exceed \$100, resulting in considerable savings for policyholders purchasing new homes. The new rates are effective no later than Aug. 18, 2014.

"The Department is responsible for monitoring insurance companies and agents for compliance with state laws to protect consumers and we take that responsibility seriously. We will not tolerate unjustified rates that could adversely affect Hoosier consumers," said Commissioner Stephen W. Robertson with the Indiana Department of Insurance.

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The Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) protects Indiana's insurance consumers by monitoring and regulating the financial strengths and market conduct activities of insurance companies and agents. The IDOI monitors insurance companies and agents for compliance with state laws to protect consumers and to offer them the best array of insurance products available. The IDOI also assists Hoosiers with insurance questions and provides guidance in understanding how insurance policies work.

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